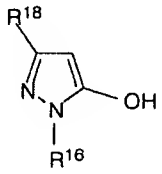
APPENDIX I:

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Cancel Claims 43 to 45, and amend Claims 30, 46, and 50 to 52, as indicated in the following listing of the claims:

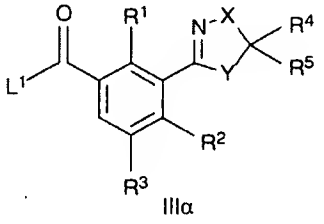
1. - 16. (*canceled*)

17. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) A process for the preparation of the 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, which comprises acylating a pyrazole of the formula II

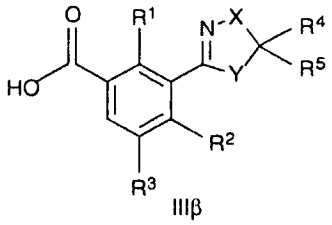


II

with an activated carboxylic acid IIIa or with a carboxylic acid IIIb



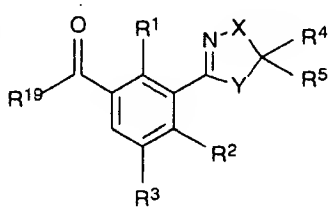
IIIα



IIIβ

where L^1 is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group and subjecting the acylation product to a rearrangement reaction to give the compound I.

18. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III,



III

where

R^{19} is halogen, hydroxyl or C_1-C_6-alkoxy,

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;

R^2 is nitro, halogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^4 is hydrogen or methyl, and R^5 is hydrogen;

X is O;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$;

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^8 is C_1-C_4-alkyl.

19. - 20. (*canceled*)

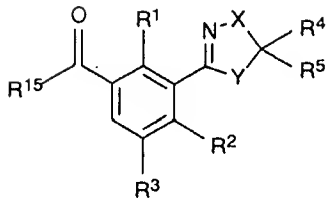
21. (*previously presented*) A composition comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28, and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

22. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) A process for the preparation of the composition defined in claim 21, which comprises mixing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

23. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) A method of controlling undesirable vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28 to act on plants, their environment and/or on seeds.

24. - 27. (*canceled*)

28. (*previously presented*) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I



I

wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;

R^2 is nitro, halogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^4 is hydrogen or methyl, and R^5 is hydrogen;

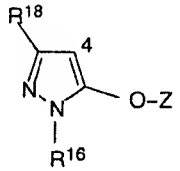
Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$;

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^8 is C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

wherein

R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

Z is H; and

R^{18} is hydrogen or methyl.

29. (*previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is methyl and R^{18} is hydrogen.

30. (*currently amended*) ~~4-[2-Methyl-3-(4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl)-4-methylsulfonylbenzoyl]-1-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazole~~ 4-[2-Methyl-3-

(4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl)-4-methylsulfonyl]benzoyl-1-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazole.

31. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is ethyl and R^{18} is hydrogen.

32. - 33. (*canceled*)

34. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is methyl and R^{18} is methyl.

35. (*previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^4 denotes hydrogen.

36. (*previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl.

37. (*previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R^1 is methyl.

38. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is ethyl and R^{18} is hydrogen.

39. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is methyl and R^{18} is methyl.

40. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein R^4 denotes hydrogen.

41. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein R^1 is methyl.

42. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 40, wherein R^1 is methyl.

43. - 45. (*canceled*)

46. (*withdrawn - currently amended*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim ~~45~~ 42, wherein R^2 is methylsulfonyl and R^3 is hydrogen.

47. (*previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

48. (*previously presented*) The composition defined in claim 21, comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I, wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

49. (*withdrawn - previously presented*) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl;

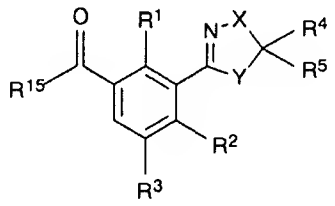
R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

50. (*currently amended*) A compound represented by formula I



I

wherein

R^1 is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

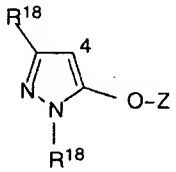
R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

X is oxygen;

Y is ~~$CR^{10}R^{11}$~~ $\underline{CR^{13}R^{14}}$; wherein ~~$R^{10}$~~ $\underline{R^{13}}$ and ~~R^{11}~~ $\underline{R^{14}}$ are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alky;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II



II

which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

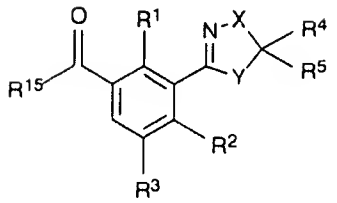
R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

Z is hydrogen or SO_2R^{17}; wherein

R^{17} is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: C_1-C_4-alkyl and C_1-C_4-alkoxy; and

R^{18} is hydrogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl.

51. (*currently amended*) A herbicide characterized by containing one or more compounds represented by formula I



I

wherein

R^1 is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

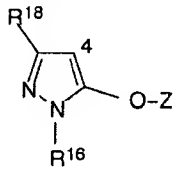
R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

X is oxygen;

Y is ~~$CR^{10}R^{11}$~~ $\underline{CR^{13}R^{14}}$; wherein ~~$R^{10}$~~ $\underline{R^{13}}$ and ~~R^{11}~~ $\underline{R^{14}}$ are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alky;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II



II

which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

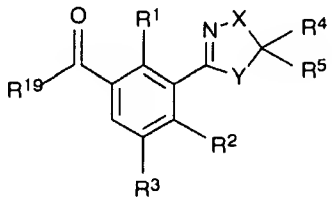
Z is hydrogen or SO_2R^{17}; wherein

R^{17} is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: C_1-C_4-alkyl and C_1-C_4-alkoxy; and

R^{18} is hydrogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl,

as active ingredients.

52. (*withdrawn - currently amended*) A compound represented by formula III



III

where

R^{19} is hydroxyl or C_1-C_6-alkoxy,

R^1 is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

X is oxygen; and

Y is ~~$CR^{10}R^{11}$~~ $\underline{CR^{13}R^{14}}$; wherein ~~$R^{10}$~~ $\underline{R^{13}}$ and ~~R^{11}~~ $\underline{R^{14}}$ are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alky.